



NAVY ATHLETICS

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Five Mids Head To Tulsa For NCAA Wrestling Championship

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Five members of the Navy wrestling team will travel to Tulsa Okla., this week to compete in the 92nd NCAA Div. 1 Wrestling Championship being held at the BOK Center. The championship will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday with morning and evening sessions daily.

Representing Navy at this year's event will be Brendan Ferretti (133), Josh Koderhandt (141), David Key (184), Jacob Koser (197) and Grady Griess (285).

Championship Schedule (All times Eastern and subject to change)

Thursday, March 16

Noon - Session 1 (Round of 32)

7:00 p.m. - Session 2 (Round of 16, Consolation First Round)

Friday, March 17

Noon - Session 3 (Quarterfinals, Consolation Second & Third Rounds)

8:00 p.m. - Session 4 (Semifinals, Consolation Fourth & Fifth Rounds)

Saturday, March 18

11:00 a.m. - Session 5 (Consolation Semifinals and 3rd-5th-7th Place Matches)

7:00 p.m. - Session 6 (Championship Finals and Awards Ceremony)

Follow the Action

- Live results/brackets will be available on Trackwrestling.com(.)
- ESPNU will televise the morning sessions, and ESPN will provide coverage for the evening sessions on all three days.
- ESPN+ will carry individual mat feeds throughout the entire championship, allowing fans to choose which wrestlers and/or schools to follow at any time. Eight mats will be used for the first and second rounds as well as the quarterfinals. Competition is reduced to six mats for the semifinals, three for the medal round and one for the finals.
- Additionally, ESPN+ will offer multi-mat, simultaneous viewing, which allows fans to watch up to four different mats at once.

Navy Notes

- Head coach Cary Kolat returns to the NCAA Championship for the third time with Navy. Kolat has now sent 17 wrestlers to the national event in his three seasons at the helm.
- All five of Navy's 2023 qualifiers earned automatic bids to the tournament following their respective placement at the EIWA Championship.
- Koser qualified for the championship for the third time in his career, while Key and Koderhandt qualified for the second time. Ferretti and Griess will both be competing for the first time.
- Griess won the 99th individual EIWA title in Navy history last week. He defeated 27th-ranked Nathan Taylor of Lehigh by a 5-1 decision in the finals to win the class. Navy's heavyweight posted a 4-0 record at the conference championship, outscoring his opponents 36-7. Additionally, three of his wins were over nationally-ranked opponents. Griess leads Navy's roster in wins against nationally-ranked wrestlers this season with a 7-4 record.
- The junior owns 31 victories this season, which places him in a three-way tie for first in the nation. He is the only heavyweight and one of only four wrestlers in the country to surpass 30 wins. Griess became the 50th wrestler in Navy history to reach 30 victories in a season and the first Mid to achieve the mark since Michael Coleman (34) and Nicholas Gil (32) did so in the 2017-18 season.
- The Grand Island, Neb., native will face Oklahoma's (16) Josh Heindselman in the opening round of the championship. Heindselman defeated Griess by a 2-1 decision in tie breaker-one in Navy's dual versus Oklahoma at the Virginia Duals on Jan. 14.
- Griess is one of only three wrestlers at this year's championship from Nebraska.
- Koderhandt placed third at the EIWA Championship with a 5-1 record. In the third-place bout, he rallied from a 5-2 deficit to defeat Lehigh's 26th-ranked Malyke Hines by a 7-6 decision. He has won 10 of his last 11 matches.
- The sophomore has an opportunity to put his name into Navy's record book after reaching 54 career victories at the conference championship. One victory in the tournament would tie him with Gil for the fifth-most victories (29) in a single season and two would tie Mark Conley for the fourth-most wins (30) in a single season in the 141-pound weight class. Additionally, two victories would tie him with Zack Davis for the fifth-most wins in a wrestler's first two seasons (56).
- Koderhandt will open the championship against (17) Dylan D'Emilio of Ohio State. He defeated D'Emilio by a 7-5 decision at the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational in December.
- Key also placed third by winning five of his six matches at the EIWA Championship. He lost to Drexel's 24th-ranked Brian Bonino in the quarterfinals by a 3-2 decision but avenged the loss in the third-place bout. He erupted for six points in the first period to eventually win the match by an 8-3 decision.
- Key's first matchup in Tulsa will be against (7) Hunter Bolen of Virginia Tech.
- Ferretti finished with a 3-2 record at the EIWA Championship to place fourth. The Macomb, Mich., native is one of only 17 true freshmen in the nation to qualify for the NCAA Championship. Additionally, he was only one of four true freshmen from the EIWA to qualify. True freshmen account for just 5.2 percent of the wrestlers (330 total) competing in Tulsa.
- Ferretti's first career NCAA Championship match will be against (13) Jesse Mendez of Ohio State.
- Koser also ended with a 3-2 record to place fourth in the conference tournament. He is one win shy of reaching 80 victories in his career. He can become the first Navy wrestler to reach 80 career wins since Gil won his 80th match in 2018. Koser can also set a new season high in victories with two at the championship. He will be one of 62 wrestlers making their third championship appearance at this year's event.
- Navy's team captain is scheduled for another matchup with Lehigh's (5) Michael Beard. Beard has defeated Koser in both meetings this season by tech falls. Additionally, he defeated Koser by a 14-4 major decision in the opening round of the 2021 NCAA Championship while at Penn State.

Navy Wrestlers At The NCAA Championship

Brendan Ferretti

- First appearance

Grady Griess

- First appearance

David Key (2-2)

2021: 2-2, Did Not Place

- Championship Rd 1: defeated (13) Chris Weiler, Wisconsin / Fall / 5:38
- Championship Rd 2: lost to (4) Parker Keckeisen, Northwestern / Major / 16-5
- Consolation Rd 2: defeated (19) Zach Braunagel, Illinois / Dec / 10-3
- Consolation Rd 3: lost to (22) Devin Kane, North Carolina / Dec / 11-10

Josh Koderhandt (1-2)

2022: 1-2, Did Not Place

- Championship Rd 1: defeated (17) Haiden Drury, Utah Valley / Dec / 5-4
- Championship Rd 2: lost to (1) Roman Bravo-Young, Penn State / Fall / 4:46
- Consolation Rd 2: lost to (18) Joseph Heilman, North Carolina / Dec / 6-0

Jacob Koser (1-4)

2021: 0-2, Did Not Place

- Championship Rd 1: lost to (15) Michael Beard, Penn State / Major / 14-4
- Consolation Rd 1: lost to (4) Eric Schultz, Nebraska / Dec / 4-2

2022: 1-2, Did Not Place

- Championship Rd 1: lost to (13) Jake Woodley, Oklahoma / Dec / 4-2
- Consolation Rd 1: defeated (29) Ben Smith, Cleveland State / Major / 12-0
- Consolation Rd 2: lost to (14) Greg Bulsak, Rutgers / Major / 8-0

Navy's NCAA History

- This is Navy's 74th NCAA Championship appearance.
- At least one Navy wrestler has participated in the event in each of the last 26 years it has been held (1997-present / 2020 was not factored in since it was canceled). It's the 25th-longest active streak in the nation.
- Navy has placed among the top-25 teams in four of the last 15 NCAA Championships. Navy tied for 48th place at the 2022 NCAA Championship.
- The program's best showing in national championship action was a fourth-place finish in 1954.
- Navy has won three individual national titles. Pete Blair won the 191-pound title in 1954 and '55, while Dan Muthler earned the crown in 1973 at 142 pounds.
- In addition to winning three individual titles, 64 All-America citations have been awarded to Navy wrestlers over the years. Tanner Skidgel (2nd team) and Spencer Carey (honorable mention) were named All-Americans by the NWCA following the 2020 season when the tournament was canceled due to Covid-19. The last Navy wrestler to reach the podium was Mathew Miller, who earned All-America honors in 2016 after placing fifth at 184 pounds.